

PRESENTATION OF THE STATUES OF JOHN STARK
AND DANIEL WEBSTER TO CONGRESS
FOR STATUARY HALL.

REMARKS

OF

WM. W. GROUT, OF VT.,

IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1894.

Vermont congratulates New Hampshire, and welcomes these her sons in commemorative marble to the companionship of the great in marble and bronze from other States. The hero of Ticonderoga from Vermont welcomes the hero of Bennington from New Hampshire. There let them stand, typical soldiers of typical States, contemporaries in life and in the sculptured renown of death. The eminent lawyer, jurist, and statesman, Jacob Collamer, who came nearer making good the place of Webster in the Senate than any other man of his time, now welcomes that great lawyer, orator, and statesman to that silent, illustrious assemblage.

WASHINGTON.
1894.

SPEECH
OF
HON. W. W. GROUT.

On the receiving of the statues of Stark and Webster.

Mr. GROUT said:

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish in behalf of Vermont to acknowledge the courtesy of the invitation extended by New Hampshire to say a word in these memorial exercises about Gen. John Stark.

This invitation is accepted with pleasure, because the early history of the two States runs so much together, and especially that part which relates to the great event in the life of General Stark, that Vermont feels almost an equal interest in this occasion with New Hampshire.

That event really touches Vermont history at one of its most heroic periods.

It not only carries us back to the battle of Bennington, where Vermont men stood side by side with the men of New Hampshire, but it opens the whole chapter of the independent career of Vermont as a State, as well as her long struggle for admission into the Union, of all of which the hero of Bennington was neither an indifferent nor a silent spectator. General Stark's victory at Bennington was so surprising at the time, and still stands so prominently among the events of that day, that we naturally want to know something of the men who stood in the ranks. Let me for a moment tell you about those from Vermont and the fitting school they had for the work done on that occasion.

FITTING SCHOOL FOR BENNINGTON.

The reader of history knows that the settlers on the New Hampshire Grants received their lands from the royal governor of the Colony of New Hampshire, paying therefor the stipulated price; and that later title to these same lands was claimed by the royal governor of New York to be his by virtue of the royal grant to the Duke of York in 1764; and the settlers were called upon to pay a second time. This was thought to be once too often, and was resisted with spirit by those hardy pioneers, who were struggling for existence against the difficulties and dangers of the wilderness, in which prowled alike the wild beast and the lurking savage.

The New York claimants easily obtained writs of possession from the New York courts for the lands, but in no instance did the settlers on the Grants allow one of their number to be permanently ejected. This, of course, called for organization, and as the result, the "Green Mountain boys," as they called themselves, under Allen, Warner, and Baker had, for more than seven

years before Stark was at Bennington, been in a kind of border war in resistance to the attempted jurisdiction over them by the King's governor of the Colony of New York. If he sent surveying parties upon the Grants, as he did, the settlers drove them off. If he commissioned justices and other civil officers they soon found official life at once a burden and a peril, and resigned or moved away. If officers went from Albany to serve process or make arrests in land matters, they were, to use the language of an old report, "seized by the people and severely chastised with twigs of the wilderness." In these forays the sheriff always came off second best: and at one time, with a posse of 750 New York militiamen, went back to Albany empty handed.

If by hook or by crook a New York grantee succeeded in displacing a settler, as was done by Colonel Reid and his tenants at the far away mouth of Otter Creek, of Pangborn, who had been in possession with a paid-up title for twelve years, Allen and his men hastened to expel the intruder, which was done twice in this case, and the last time with notice not again to return, "on pain of suffering the displeasure of the Green Mountain Boys." At this juncture the governor of New York appealed to General Haldiman, commander-in-chief of the King's troops in America—this was in 1773—for help in enforcing his authority on the Grants, complaining that the militia could not be relied upon. This, however, the commanding general declined to do, expressing doubt as to the propriety of using regular troops for that purpose.

But I must not prolong this story, full of local interest as it is and showing, as it does when fully told, the heroic struggle of the hardy settlers on the New Hampshire Grants in defense of their homes and their lives, which culminated in 1774 in a proclamation by the governor of New York and a counter proclamation by Allen and his men, from which an armed collision could not have been far away. But just then another war cloud loomed upon the horizon, obscuring and absorbing for the time all minor controversies.

LEXINGTON AND CONCORD.

The cry of blood from Lexington and Concord on the 19th day of April, 1775, rung like a tocsin in every home; and instantly every hamlet was astir with preparations for war and every patriot breast on fire for action. The brave men on the New Hampshire Grants were no exception; but, on the contrary, were conspicuous for activity and valor. They forgot, for the time, their differences with New York, and, promptly changing front, gave battle to the common enemy.

TICONDEROGA AND CROWN POINT.

Not waiting for the Continental Congress or any other authority, except their own council of safety, on the 10th day of May (only twenty-one days after the affair at Lexington) Allen, at the head of these intrepid men, captured the fortress at Ticonderoga, and upon a formula that has made his name immortal. On the same day these men also captured the garrisons at Crown Point and Skeensboro. And later we find Allen in unequal conflict with General Carleton at St. Johns, where he was unfortunately taken prisoner. And later still the same year we find Warner with his "Green Mountain Boys" repulsing Carleton at Montreal and sending him by night, with muffled oars, down the St. Lawrence to

Quebec. And these (except Allen, who was still a prisoner of war in London) and others like them from the State of Vermont were the men whom Stark had to help him at Bennington.

I said the State of Vermont. I should have said the independent State of Vermont, for such the New Hampshire Grants had become at the time of the battle of Bennington.

INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGNTY OF VERMONT.

The settlers on the Grants, finding themselves in the midst of a great war and on the very frontier between the contending forces, and without organization or allegiance, except as claimed by New York, to which they could never accede, just twenty days after the Declaration of Independence, to wit, on the 24th day of July, 1776, met in convention at Dorset, and at an adjourned meeting, the following January, declared their territory "to be forever thereafter a free and independent jurisdiction or State under the name of Vermont;" thus cutting loose from every other power or authority on the footstool, and acknowledging allegiance only to the Supreme Ruler of the universe; and this little independent State so maintained herself for the period of fourteen years, and until her admission into the Union in 1791, all the time standing out as an independent power among the powers of the earth, with a sovereignty of her own, a currency of her own, including coinage, with postal and excise laws—in fact, laws of every kind of her own, and withal with a national policy of her own, which, firmly adhered to, at last secured for her an equal place in the Union of the States.

FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY IN ALL HISTORY.

The new State, of course, had a constitution. And that you may more fully understand the character of the men from Vermont who supported Stark at Bennington, let me read two brief sections from their constitution.

In the very first section is found this language:

No male person born in this country or brought from over sea shall be holden by law to serve any person as a servant, slave, or apprentice after he arrives at the age of 21 years; nor female in like manner after she arrives at the age of 18 years, unless they are bound by their own consent after they arrive at such age, or bound by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like.

This constitution was adopted July 8, 1777, ten years before the Federal Constitution and six months before the old Articles of Confederation, early, as you will see, in the era of written constitutions; and yet, with slight alterations, it is the constitution of Vermont to-day, and a model of its kind, providing for every function of government—legislative, executive, and judicial—even to authority for the establishment of a court of chancery, a branch of jurisprudence then in the infancy of its modern jurisdiction. But more notable than all this is the fact that it contained this prohibition of slavery, while every one of the colonies tolerated the institution. And more notable still is the fact that it is the first constitutional prohibition of slavery ever put forth by any people anywhere, at any time, in the whole history of man. Yes; let it be written in letters of gold that the "Green Mountain boys" were the first in all the earth to write in their organic law an absolute interdiction of an institution which had run with the history of the race, and which all the more enlightened nations have since copied, and at last, though in blood, has been written in the Constitution of our common country.

COMPLETE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.

The other section in that remarkable constitution which I wish to read is as follows:

No man ought to, or of right can, be compelled to attend any religious worship, or erect or support any place of worship, or maintain any minister contrary to the dictates of his conscience; nor can any man be justly deprived or abridged of any civil right as a citizen on account of his religious sentiments or peculiar mode of religious worship; and that no authority can, or ought to be, vested in or assumed by any power whatever that shall in any case interfere with or in any manner control the rights of conscience in a free religious worship.

Now, here was a clean departure by New England men from New England laws, customs, and traditions. Here was a declaration for a complete separation of church and state, while at that time throughout New England, except Rhode Island alone, the church and state were so united that it was difficult to distinguish between the two. All were taxed by law for the support of the established worship, and all were compelled to wait on its ministrations.

In those early New England days no one could vote unless he belonged to the church, and one's influence in public life was always measured by his observance of its rites and ceremonies. In that day this was a universal condition; no power on the face of the globe existed without a state religion. And to this late day it remains, though in modified form, a disturbing question in English politics, the great Gladstone having closed one of the most brilliant careers in English history and left to his successors in office the difficult and delicate work of disestablishing the church.

But the men on the New Hampshire Grants took the centuries by the forelock. When they flung in the face of all the world the flag of their free State, they said it shall be free indeed; shall forever be the dwelling place of complete civil and religious liberty. They said the church shall not be supported on compulsion of law, but by voluntary contribution, as it is to-day throughout all this broad land.

Mr. Speaker, let it not be thought that this was the declaration of a wild, wayward set of fellows with more courage than conscience. The last clause of this free religious section shows that they were not only liberty-loving but God-fearing men.

It is as follows:

Nevertheless, every sect or denomination of Christians ought to observe the Sabbath or Lord's day and keep up some sort of religious worship, which to them shall seem most agreeable to the revealed will of God.

And the first legislature under this constitution, till special statutes could be adopted, declared the laws "as they stand in the Connecticut law book and in defect of such laws the plain word of God as contained in the Holy Scripture to be the law of the land;" and in further proof that these were not irreverent men, the second legislature passed a law punishing blasphemy with death and profane swearing, cursing, lying, and drunkenness with sitting in the stocks.

CONVENTION LEARNS OF BURGOYNE'S ADVANCE.

But enough. This constitution was adopted at Windsor, July 8, 1777, only thirty-nine days before the battle of Bennington; and as it was being read, paragraph by paragraph, for the last

time, a courier arrived in hot haste from the west side with information of the fall of Ticonderoga and that Burgoyne was advancing in heavy force along both sides of Lake Champlain.

To quote from myself on another occasion: "Here was indeed an awful crisis; one beyond the control of constitutions or conventions and for which the only cure was bayonets and bullets, which certain and effective remedy every man in that convention felt that he knew how to administer; and some were for instant adjournment and immediate work on Burgoyne's flank. Allen in his history says they would have adjourned only for a terrific thunder storm, which detained them in the building. But they did not adjourn, and there, amid salvos of heaven's artillery, these men completed their work, laying broad and deep the foundations of civil and religious liberty, and marking, as by a milestone, an era in constitutional government. They appointed a committee of safety, called on New Hampshire and Massachusetts for help, and adjourned and hurried over the mountain to pay their respects to General Burgoyne."

CHARACTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MEN AT BENNINGTON.

And these are the men, these constitution makers, and such as these, from the new, independent State of Vermont, who were at Bennington on the memorable 16th of August with Stark, who had brought over the mountains from New Hampshire brave men of equal character; for among the number, and probably a fair sample of the lot, was Capt. Ebenezer Webster, father of the god-like Daniel, the great Constitution expounder, whose statue stands alongside that of Stark in yonder Hall, and whose name is writ with his high on the scroll of fame.

How little these men could have thought that this sublime portion awaited them, when Daniel, a young lawyer at Portsmouth, on his way to the courts in Concord, and Stark, living in the retirement of his farm, met at the old hotel in Hookset, and the hero of Bennington spoke of the sale of himself at one time for £40, and was ready to believe Daniel was the son of Captain Webster because of the same deep, swarthy color of his face, only "blackier."

But let us for a moment see how Stark happened to be at Bennington. We left the courier at Windsor on July 8, with information of Burgoyne's advance, which was, of course, forwarded to the New Hampshire Council of Safety, and must have been received not later than the 11th or 12th.

ACTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Vermont council of safety had learned from the affair at Hubbardton that without assistance they were powerless against Burgoyne's ten thousand, flanked by merciless savages who thought only of scalps, and on July 13, from Manchester, addressed a formal appeal to the New Hampshire council, asking for help, and reminding them that when Vermont was subjugated New Hampshire herself would be on the frontier. This appeal was addressed to New Hampshire because there was no time in which to reach Congress or the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army; and the policy of Schuyler, commanding in that quarter, was to draw everything from Vermont and concentrate at Stillwater, in which the independent State of Vermont did not believe.

The patriotic spirit of New Hampshire was at fever heat. Her general court was in session, and she responded nobly and

promptly. On July 19 the president of her council notified the Vermont council that orders were then issuing for three battalions under General Stark to go to their assistance; and that they should depend upon the people of Vermont to provision them; and also asking to have some proper person meet General Stark at Number Four (Charlestown) to explain the situation and conduct him over the mountains.

On July 30 Stark was in Charlestown, calling on the New Hampshire council for kettles and bullet molds, saying there was but one pair in the place.

Think of it! One pair of bullet molds for an army!

On August 2 he again wrote from Charlestown:

Brigade not yet complete. * * * Would have sent account of strength, but troops arrive in small parties and are sent forward in small divisions. Shall leave one company here and two on height of land between this place and Otter Creek to protect the inhabitants.

On August 6 he was at Peru, on the mountain top; on August 7 at Manchester, and on August 9 at Bennington. Only twenty days from the time he received orders he had recruited and equipped his little army and had it on the ground. Napoleon never moved with greater promptitude nor greater celerity. And he, you will remember, when asked why it was that he always whipped the Austrians, replied: "Because they do not understand the value of five minutes of time." It should be remembered that these men from New Hampshire were not in the service, but came up straight from their homes on call of the council. But why did Stark stop at Bennington? Why did he not join Schuyler at Stillwater, as at Manchester he received orders from that general to do?

SCHUYLER'S ORDER TO STARK TO JOIN HIM.

Some have criticised General Stark for not obeying Schuyler's order, and others have claimed he did obey. But it should be remembered that Stark did not receive his authority from Congress, but from the council of safety of New Hampshire, and upon express condition that he was not, unless he chose, to report to or obey any Continental officer or the Continental Congress, from whose service he had just resigned; that he was, in short, to cooperate with the troops in Vermont or elsewhere, as he thought best for the protection of the people and the annoyance of the enemy; and when General Lincoln presented Schuyler's order at Manchester, he undoubtedly explained the independent nature of his command and declined to be ordered by him. This is quite clear from the fact that on Lincoln's report to Schuyler and his to Washington, Congress proceeded on the 19th, three days after the battle, to censure the New Hampshire council for sending Stark out in that irregular way. And yet, in a letter to the Hartford Courant of August 18, two days after the battle, speaking of this order, Stark says:

In obedience thereto I marched with my brigade to Bennington on my way to join him, leaving that part of the country (about Manchester) almost naked to the ravage of the enemy.

Now, from this it would seem that while Stark had signified to Lincoln that he could not be ordered by Schuyler or any other authority except the New Hampshire council of safety, yet he had gone to Bennington in the direction of Schuyler, not being fully decided but that he might join him in case he thought it best for the cause, as after the battle he in fact did.

WHY DID STARK STOP AT BENNINGTON?

But why did he stop at Bennington, where he won a brilliant victory, which was the very first streak of light in the Continental struggle? He tells us why in this same letter. In the very next sentence he says:

The honorable the council then sitting at Bennington were much against my marching with my brigade, as it was raised on their request, they apprehending great danger of the enemy approaching to that place, which afterwards we found truly to be the case. They also happily agreed to postpone giving orders to the militia to march.

Of course they did. They never for a moment thought of sending the Vermont militia to Schuyler till the storm had swept past them; and they persuaded Stark that if he would but stop with them there would soon be business for them all, as there was. They knew, for they had dwelt upon it so long that with them it was a verity, and Stark, with quick military intuition, instantly saw that Burgoyne would not move on to Stillwater without reaching out, as he passed, for the valuable stores at Bennington, which were so much needed by his army.

VERMONT COUNCIL OF SAFETY FORESAW A FIGHT AT BENNINGTON.

Why, the men of this council of safety, who Stark says in this same letter were just from general State convention at Windsor, could not only make constitutions, having just turned out one that overlapped the progressive growth of public opinion for a hundred years, but they could also plan campaigns. Their whole lifetime had been a continuous campaign in defense of their homes, their lands, and their lives. They took nothing for granted, but were ever on the alert; and as early as July 15, at Manchester, foresaw the battle of Bennington. In a circular to the militia officers, among other things, they said (using the capitals and spelling of the original):

The Continental Stores at Bennington seem to be their present aim. You will be supplied with provisions here on your arrival. Pray send all the Troops you can Possibly Raise; we can Repulse them if we have assistance.

And again, on the 13th of August at Bennington, they sent an order to Colonel Marsh, saying:

There are therefore the most Positive terms to require you without a moments Loss of time to march one-half of the Regiment under your Command to this Place.

There will Doubtless be an attack at or near this Place within twenty-four hours. We have the assistance of General Stark with his Brigade. You will hurry what Rangers forward are Recrued. Now is the Time, Sir.

And it turned out that it was the time.

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

But I must not dwell on the battle of Bennington. It was a small affair in numbers, but out of all proportion thereto in results. Stark had with him from New Hampshire 800 men, and from Vermont, then sparsely populated, 600 men, and probably 150 from the Berkshire Hills in Massachusetts, near by; only fifteen or sixteen hundred all told. But every man was there because he wanted to be. He was there to strike for liberty, for independence, and against the monarchical idea in government. And what chance had the savages, the Tories, the Hessian hirelings, or the King's troops against such men, among whom was a pastor and his flock, and all of whom were imbued with something of the spirit of those of old, of whom it was said: "Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight."

Verily, these men, though few, were a host, and their leader was every way worthy to command them. He was no novice in war. He was a veteran of that seven years' struggle between the French and English for supremacy on this continent. He was in the successful defense of Fort William Henry in 1757; was with Lord Howe in his unsuccessful assault on Ticonderoga in 1758; was with Amherst at its reduction in 1759; was on the left of the line at Bunker Hill where the red coats were three times repulsed, and was the last to retire; was with Washington at Trenton and Princeton, and in all these encounters he was brave and capable. He was every inch a soldier and he knew it, and now that he had an independent command he proposed to show the Continental Congress, whose favor he seems not to have gained, that he could fight and win; that he knew—

When to advance, or stand, or turn the sway
Of battle; open when, and when to close
The ridges of grim war.

He chafed like a caged lion all day that rainy 15th while the enemy was throwing up his intrenchments, but in the morning made his dispositions for attack, and in such a way that when the game came down he would bag it; for, though the enemy was behind breastworks, with artillery, and he had none, he was confident of victory, and victory was his, though not without the "hottest" fight this soldier of a dozen battles had ever seen, and of which he said in his official report that "had every man been an Alexander or Charles of Sweden he could not have behaved better."

The poet has presented Stark at Bennington in the following lines:

When on that field his band the Hessians fought,
Briefly he spoke before the fight began:
"Soldiers, those German gentlemen were bought
For four pounds eight and sevenpence per man
By England's king; a bargain it is thought.
Are we worth more? Let's prove it while we can;
For we must beat them, boys, ere set of sun,
Or my wife sleeps a widow."—It was done.

Yes, "it was done." The day was ours, with four brass cannon, two of which now guard the State capitol of Vermont, and the other two ought to guard that of New Hampshire; 1,000 stand of arms, 44 officers, and 750 prisoners, with 207 of the enemy, as Stark reported, "killed on the spot."

THE DAY SAVED BY THE "GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS."

Yes, "it was done." But at one time the fate of the day hung trembling in the balance. It was after the patriots had finished Baum, charging over his breastworks and capturing his cannon, with hardly a bayonet, with only fowling-pieces, and after they supposed and Stark supposed the battle was won, and after the troops had scattered; some pursuing and gathering up and others guarding prisoners, some seeking refreshments and others collecting the spoils of victory, when of a sudden Breynan's bugles sounded his approach with a thousand fresh men and two field pieces. This officer in his report says: "The cannon were posted on a road where there was a log house. This we fired into, as it was occupied by rebels." And later he says, "We then repulsed them on all sides."

It was a critical moment. Was it possible for Stark to rally his scattered men, weary with the work of one battle, and fight an-

other? In his report he says: "Luckily for us, Colonel Warner's regiment came up, which put a stop to their career. We soon rallied, and in a few minutes the action became very warm and desperate, which lasted until night." Not more timely nor more decisive of the day was the arrival of Dessaix at Marengo or of Blücher at Waterloo than was the coming of those 150 fresh men of Warner's regiment, who had marched from Manchester, under Major Safford, after the battle was set at Bennington, Warner himself having been all day with Stark in the fight.

Who will say what the result of that day's business might have been only for the arrival, in the very nick of time, of those "Green Mountain boys," who with impetuous zeal went immediately into action, and, as Stark himself says, "put an end to their career"? Who will say what the entry by the muse of history against the name of John Stark might have been, had not those fresh men "put a stop to their career" and enabled Stark to say: "We soon rallied," etc.? Probably no one can appreciate the significance of this question more completely than did the old hero himself, for in his letter to General Gates he says: "Colonel Warner's superior skill in the action was of extraordinary service to me. I would be glad if he and his men could be remembered by Congress." And from that day forth General Stark always held the warmest friendship toward the people of Vermont.

DISMAL STATE OF THE CONTINENTAL CAUSE.

But the battle was won, and Stark's name and fame are now the common heritage of the American people, challenging always their applause and gratitude. The results of this victory were indeed far reaching, and its effect upon the Colonial cause, loaded down with two years of disaster and discouragement, was almost magical. Since the capture of Ticonderoga and Crown Point by Allen in 1775 no substantial victory had crowned the Continental arms in any quarter. And now Burgoyne, with a splendidly equipped army, was to march from Canada to New York by way of Albany and the Hudson, thereby impressing the people with the invincibility of the King's troops and the great advantage of the King's protection. Men will not long stand up for a government that can not protect them.

Ticonderoga, long considered "the key to North America," had fallen before Burgoyne's triumphal march, of which Schuyler wrote:

An event so alarming has not yet happened since the contest began.

In some places it was the occasion of fasting and prayer. The Tory everywhere raised his head, and the Whig was filled with fear. Meanwhile Burgoyne was moving toward the Hudson, all the time holding in each hand the King's ready pardon and protection for his loving subjects, and his army was all the time increasing by Tory recruits, while the desertions from St. Clair's army as it fell back from Ticonderoga were fearful to contemplate. On July 14 General Schuyler wrote Washington from Fort Edward:

I am informed a very great proportion of the inhabitants are taking protection from General Burgoyne, as most of those in this quarter are willing to do. Desertions prevail and disease gains ground, nor is it to be wondered, for we have neither tents, houses, barns, boards, or shelter, except a little brush. Every rain that falls, and we have it in great abundance almost every

day, wets the men to the skin. We are, besides, in great want of every kind of necessary, provision excepted. We have camp kettles so few that we can not afford one to twenty men.

Washington was almost discouraged. August 7, nine days before the battle of Bennington, he wrote Schuyler:

As matters are going on, General Burgoyne will find little difficulty in penetrating to Albany.

And again he wrote:

Could we be so happy as to cut off one of his detachments, supposing it should not exceed four, five, or six hundred men, it would inspire the people and do away with much of the present anxiety. In such an event they would lose sight of past misfortunes, fly to arms, and afford every aid in their power.

FAR-REACHING EFFECTS OF THE VICTORY.

While Washington was praying Stark performed; this, only on a larger scale, was just what he did at Bennington, and Washington's prediction was verified. It electrified the Colonies. Handbills giving the news went out from Boston. Town-criers throughout all New England proclaimed it. Bonfires were built, bells were rung, and again the Colonies were aglow with a spirit of patriotism and valor.

All had been darkness, but light was breaking. Burgoyne's army was no longer looked upon as invincible. Stark had revealed the fact that it could be beaten, and badly beaten, too; that Indians, Tories, Hessians, Canadian volunteers, and British regulars could all be overwhelmed together.

The wise new prudence from the wise acquire,
And one brave hero fans another's fire.

Instead of desertions there were now enlistments. Not only this, but no more Tories rallied to Burgoyne's standard. They did not contemplate with satisfaction the treatment of their brethren taken prisoners at Bennington, who were tied two and two with bed cords, furnished by the Bennington housewives, and then fastened to a horse and marched through the streets amid the jeers and gibes and thrusts of the indignant crowd. The victory at Bennington wrought a complete change in the atmosphere of the northern department. The Indians even took it in. Governor Clinton wrote:

Since that affair not an Indian has been heard of; the scalping has ceased.

And later 250 Indians in a body left Burgoyne's army and joined the American forces.

When Washington heard the news from Bennington he said: "One more such stroke and we shall have no great cause of anxiety as to the designs of Great Britain." And in writing Putnam he expressed the hope that New England would follow up the blow struck by Stark and crush Burgoyne. And she did; October 17 told the story.

But he received his death blow the 16th of August. On the 18th, two days after the battle, in a letter to Lord Germain, explaining the difficulties that beset him, he said, among other things:

The Hampshire Grants in particular, a country unpeopled and almost unknown in the last war, now abounds in the most warlike and rebellious race of the continent, and hangs like a gathering storm on my left.

Burgoyne was both surprised and stupefied. The Baroness Riedesel, then with her husband in the British camp, well explained the changed condition when she wrote: "This unfortunate event paralyzed at once our operations."

Could Burgoyne have foreseen the storm that was gathering for him at Stillwater, set in motion by Stark's inspiring example at Bennington, and have pushed forward without delay, he might have connected with Sir Henry Clinton on the lower Hudson, or, acting seasonably, he might have fallen back on Canada.

But after this unexpected blow at Bennington he seemed to drift in a bewildered, aimless way, till Warner, with his "Green Mountain Boys," had cut off all chance of retreat by capturing the transports on the lakes, and at last the most powerful army that ever entered America from Canada was surrendered and largely absorbed into American citizenship. And Burgoyne, the pet of the ministry, went home in disgrace and out of sight forever. And John Stark was the man who dealt him the stunning blow that ended his career.

STARK'S FRIENDSHIP FOR VERMONT.

But enough. Stark never forgot how the Vermonters helped him out on that greatest day of his life; and in that prolonged and varying struggle of the people of Vermont for admission into the Union, which lasted in all fourteen years, and was full of novel situations and dangerous complications, Stark was all the time their consistent and faithful friend. And when by a certain act of Congress, in 1781, he supposed Vermont was to be admitted as a State, in honor of the surrender of Cornwallis he fired a salute of fourteen guns at Saratoga, where he was in command, one being for the new State of Vermont.

It is true, however, when the twelve towns in New York and the thirty-five in New Hampshire were so attracted by the constitution and government of Vermont that they left their allegiance to their respective States and asked to be annexed to the new, independent State of Vermont, Stark, who was then in command at Albany, was much troubled on account of his Vermont friends. He could not consent to the dismemberment of his own State, and his official position compelled him to disapprove the encroachment upon New York. This somewhat strained but did not break the friendly tie that bound him to Vermont.

When he supposed Vermont was admitted as a State he wrote Governor Chittenden as follows:

ALBANY, August 27, 1781.

MY DEAR SIR: I only waited the prudent and happy determination of Congress to congratulate you upon the interesting and important decision in your favor. Be assured, sir, that no intervening circumstance on the grand political system of America since the war began has given me more real pleasure than to hear of your acceptance into the Union—a measure that I do now and always did think was highly compatible with the real interest of the country. It is with difficulty I can determine in my own mind why it has been postponed to this late hour; but perhaps Congress had motives that we are strangers to. The best and wisest mortals are liable to err.

I am very happy to acquaint you that the people in this city show very much of the highest solicitude upon the matter, fully convinced that to be separate will be more for the interest of both States than to be united.

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To have been connected with New Hampshire is what many in the State would have been very sorry for, as very inconvenient and expensive for both bodies of people, and no real good resulting from such connection. Therefore, I am of the opinion that every man who consulted the public interest must be an advocate for separation; for had they been connected there would have ever been a jealousy between the two States which would have been infallibly dangerous to both. But that jealousy, by the separation, must entirely subside, and New Hampshire and Vermont live in perfect friendship as sister States.

That Vermont in its government may be happy and a stranger to internal jars is the ardent wish, my dear sir, of your most obedient servant.

JOHN STARK.

To Governor CHITTENDEN.

The action of Congress referred to by Stark was for the appointment of a commission, which Vermont had reasons for believing would divide the State along the mountain range between New York and New Hampshire, and she promptly rejected the Congressional plan, refusing in a most spirited manner to accept anything short of unconditional admission.

This was in 1781, and Stark wondered why admission "had been postponed to that late hour." Vermont was not admitted till 1791, ten years thereafter; ten years of struggling and waiting, of diplomacy and war, of border raids and internal tumults, the story of which would read more like romance than a plain recital of actual facts. But this is aside.

New Hampshire is fortunate in the selection of characters for Statuary Hall. Stark and Webster are great names in the Granite State, great throughout the country, and great with all English-speaking peoples.

VERMONT CONGRATULATES NEW HAMPSHIRE AND WELCOMES HER HEROES.

Vermont congratulates New Hampshire, and welcomes these her sons in commemorative marble to the companionship of the great in marble and bronze from other States. The hero of Ticonderoga from Vermont welcomes the hero of Bennington from New Hampshire. There let them stand, typical soldiers of typical States, contemporaries in life and in the sculptured renown of death, The eminent lawyer, jurist, and statesman, Jacob Collamer, who came nearer making good the place of Webster in the Senate than any other man of his time, now welcomes that great lawyer, orator, and statesman to that silent, illustrious assemblage.

Vermont will always welcome these men; for Stark was with her in war and Webster counseled her in peace, his words still ringing throughout the State from the summit of the Green Mountains, where, standing beside a log cabin in 1840, near the place where Stark crossed on his way to Bennington, he spoke, making clear then, as always, the points of a political faith in which Vermont is as steadfast as her heavenly neighbor the North Star, and her light equally constant.

Yes, Vermont, in common with all the States of this now "glorious Union," welcomes the return of Daniel Webster to the Capitol, and there in yonder hall let him forever stand amid the undying echoes of those weighty words which have not only made his name immortal, but which have been burnt into the very hearts of the American people by the fires of civil war, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable." [Prolonged applause.]

